# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

| (51) International Patent Classification 6 : | | (11) International Publication Number: | **WO 99/35579** |
|---|---|---|---|
| G06F 12/02 | **A1** | (43) International Publication Date: | 15 July 1999 (15.07.99) |

| | |
|---|---|
| (21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/00320 | (81) **Designated States:** CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). |
| (22) International Filing Date: 6 January 1999 (06.01.99) | |
| (30) **Priority Data:**<br>60/070,650      7 January 1998 (07.01.98)    US<br>Not furnished    30 December 1998 (30.12.98)    US | **Published**<br>*With international search report.* |
| (71) **Applicant:** TANDEM COMPUTERS INCORPORATED [US/US]; 10435 North Tantau Avenue, Loc. 200–16, Cupertino, CA 95014–0709 (US). | |
| (72) **Inventors:** GARCIA, David, J.; 24100 Hutchinson Road, Los Gatos, CA 95033 (US). FOWLER, Daniel, L.; 303 Norwood Drive, Georgetown, TX 78628 (US). | |
| (74) **Agents:** KRUEGER, Charles, E. et al.; Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP, 8th floor, Two Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, CA 94111–3834 (US). | |

(54) Title: TWO-LEVEL ADDRESS TRANSLATION AND MEMORY REGISTRATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

(57) Abstract

A two-level memory region registration and address translation method includes a memory handle table and a translation and protection table (TPT). Each memory region registered is associated with a unique memory handle index which accesses one entry of the memory handle table. The accessed entry in the memory handle table stores a memory handle that is combined with virtual addresses in the registered memory region to access TPT entries storing translation data for the virtual addresses in the registered memory region.

# TWO LEVEL ADDRESS TRANSLATION AND MEMORY
# REGISTRATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

5

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from Provisional Appln. No. 60/070,650, filed January 7, 1998, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

10

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The virtual interface architecture (VIA) has been jointly developed by a number of computer and software companies. VIA provides consumer processes with a protected, directly accessible interface to network hardware, termed a virtual interface. VIA is especially designed to provide low latency message communication over a system

15    area network (SAN) to facilitate multi- processing utilizing clusters of processors.

A SAN is used to interconnect nodes within a distributed computer system, such as a cluster. The SAN is a type of network that provides high bandwidth, low latency communication with a very low error rate. SANs often utilize fault-tolerant technology to assure high availability. The performance of a SAN resembles a memory

20    subsystem more than a traditional local area network (LAN).

The VIA is described in the Virtual Interface Architecture Specification, Draft Revision 1.0, December 4, 1997. The VI Architecture is comprised of four basic components: Virtual Interfaces, Completion Queues, VI Providers, and VI Consumers. The VI Provider is composed of a physical network adapter and a software Kernel Agent.

25    The VI Consumer is generally composed of an application program and an operating system communication facility. The organization of these components is illustrated in Figure 1.

A VI is depicted in Fig. 2 and consists of a pair of Work Queues: a send queue and a receive queue. VI Consumers post requests, in the form of Descriptors, on

30    the Work Queues to send or receive data. A Descriptor is a memory structure that

contains all of the information that the VI Provider needs to process the request, such as pointers to data buffers.

The VI Provider is the set of hardware and software components responsible for instantiating a Virtual Interface. The VI Provider consists of a network interface controller (NIC) and a Kernel Agent (KA).

The VI NIC implements the Virtual Interfaces and directly performs data transfer functions. The NIC provides an electro-mechanical attachment of a computer to a network. Under program control, a NIC copies data from memory to the network medium, i.e., transmission, and from the medium to the memory, i.e., reception.

The Kernel Agent is a privileged part of the operating system, usually a driver supplied by the VI NIC vendor, that performs the setup and resource management functions needed to maintain a Virtual Interface between VI Consumers and VI NICs. These functions include the creation/destruction of VIs, VI connection setup/teardown, interrupt management and/or processing, management of system memory used by the VI NIC, and error handling. VI Consumers access the Kernel Agent using standard operating system mechanisms such as system calls. Kernel Agents interact with VI NICs through standard operating system device management mechanisms.

The VI Architecture requires the VI Consumer to identify memory used for a data transfer prior to submitting the request. Only memory that has been registered with the VI Provider can be used for data transfers. This memory registration process allows the VI Consumer to reuse registered memory buffers, thereby avoiding duplication of locking and translation operations. Memory registration also takes this processing overhead out of the performance-critical data transfer path.

Memory registration enables the VI Provider to transfer data directly between the buffers of a VI Consumer and the network without copying any data to or from intermediate buffers.

Memory registration consists of locking the pages of a virtually contiguous memory region into physical memory and providing the virtual to physical translations to the VI NIC. The VI Consumer gets an opaque handle for each memory region registered. The VI Consumer can reference all registered memory by its virtual address and its associated handle.

Memory is registered with the VI NIC for two reasons:

1) to allow the NIC to perform virtual to physical address translation

2) to allow the NIC to perform protection checking.

Consumers are able to use virtual addresses to refer to VI Descriptors and communication buffers. The VI NIC is able to translate from virtual to physical addresses through the use of its Translation and Protection Table (TPT). The TPT of the NIC described in the VIA Specification resides on the NIC in order to assure fast, non-contentious access and because it is accessed during performance critical data movement. A TPT and method of accessing the TPT are depicted in Fig. 3. The fields of each TPT entry are:

a) a valid indication bit

b) a physical page address

c) a protection tag

d) an RDMA Write Enable Bit

e) an RDMA Read Enable Bit

f) a Memory Write Enable Bit

The size of the TPT is configurable. There is one entry in the TPT for each page that can be registered by the user. A memory region of N contiguous virtual pages consumes N contiguous entries in the TPT.

When a memory region is registered with the NIC, the Kernel Agent allocates a contiguous set of entries from the TPT and initializes them with the corresponding physical page addresses and protection tag specified by the process that registered the memory region. The protection tag specified by the process when it creates a VI is stored in the context memory of the VI. The NIC has access to the protection tag in both of these areas, allowing it to compare these values to detect invalid accesses. Page sizes larger than 4KB are supported and page size may differ among nodes of the SAN.

The above-described implementation of the TPT has several disadvantages. If TPT entries are allowed to exist anywhere in memory, an application could set-up bogus TPT entries which point to any physical address. A RDMA Write descriptor could then be set up, given appropriate Virtual Address and Memory Handle to use this bogus TPT entry and scribble anywhere in memory. The standard solution is to limit the locations of legal TPT entries. The requirement of allocation of contiguous

memory to facilitate bounds checking consumes a large amount of memory. Another
problem resulting from the standard solution is that it may lead to fragmentation of entries
in the TPT which can result in a failure when attempting to find multiple consecutive
entries required when registering large memory regions.

5          The fragmentation problem is illustrated in Fig. 4 which depicts an
exaggerated example where the TPT range is limited to only eight entries. There are
three active registered memory regions, with TPT owner IDs X, Y, and Z, which
differentiate the registered memory regions. An application cannot register a new two
page memory region, Mem Region 4, because, due to previous fragmentation of the TPT,
10        no two TPT entries are contiguous. Thus, Mem Region 4 cannot be registered even
though there are three available entries in the TPT.

If the Memory Handles could be reassigned, then larger contiguous sets of
free locations could be found. Unfortunately, this is not possible because the Memory
Handles returned to the applications earlier are already in use in descriptors and it would
15        be undesirable to stop VI processing and update all the descriptors.


SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of the invention, a two-level look-up scheme
utilizes a Memory Handle Index to obtain an index into a table of Memory Handles, the
20        Memory Handle Table (MHT), used for accessing the TPT.

According to another aspect of the invention, an application receives a
Memory Handle Index when it registers memory. The TPT entries for the registered area
of memory can be moved and the Memory Handles reassigned without requiring the
descriptors, which use the Memory Handle Index, to be updated.

25        According to another aspect of the invention, the TPT can be stored in any
place in memory and fields for base/bounds checking are included in each MHT entry.

According to another aspect of the invention, the TPT can be
defragmented by moving fragmented entries to free locations and updating the Memory
Handle to point to the new location. Since descriptors in use hold Memory Handle
30        Indices, the descriptors do not need to be updated.

Other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent in view of
the following detailed description and appended drawings.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the Virtual Interface Architecture (VIA);

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of a Virtual Interface (VI);

Fig. 3 is a block diagram of the VIA address translation scheme;

Fig. 4 is a block diagram depicting a fragmented TPT;

Fig. 5 is a schematic diagram of a preferred embodiment of the two-level address translation mechanism;

Fig. 6 is a block diagram of the MHT entry format and the TPT entry format;

Fig. 7 is a block diagram of a fragmented TPT utilizing the two level look-up table scheme; and

Figs. 8A-8C depict the steps of defragmenting the TPT.


## DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to Fig. 5 which depicts a novel two-level scheme for accessing a translation protection table (TPT) implemented by the network interface card (NIC) and kernel agent (KA) of the VI consumer as depicted in Fig. 1.

Applications access memory using virtual addresses 50 and Memory Handle Indices (MHI) 52. The NIC provides the translation to physical addresses. The MHI value 52 is returned from the VI User Agent during memory registration.

The MHI 52 is an offset into a first level table called the Memory Handle Table 54. This first level table contains the Memory Handles (MH) 55. The MH is subtracted from the Virtual Page Number (VPN) 50 to generate a pointer into the second level Translation and Protection Table (TPT) 56 . This pointer is called the Pseudo Address (PSA). Note that in the VIA Specification and Fig. 3 this pointer is denoted the "protection index". The TPT holds the Physical Page Number (PPN). The MHI is 20 bits, allowing for up to 1M Memory Handles. The present embodiment requires the Memory Handle Table to reside in physically contiguous memory which begins at the Memory Handle Base register value.

Each Memory Handle Table entry is 8 bytes. The Memory Handle is 32 bits allowing 4G TPT Entries. Each TPT entry is 8 bytes. Protection checks which limit

the start and extent of TPT entries force them to begin in the lower 8GBytes of memory because of the size of the TPT Start field in the present embodiment.

The VIA Specification uses terminology which is different from that used with the presently described NIC regarding the Memory Handle, since the VIA

5    Specification describes only a one table lookup implementation whereas the present NIC uses a 2 table lookup implementation for calculating physical addresses. Both the implementation described in the VIA specification and the preferred embodiments subtract the Memory Handle from the virtual address to obtain the pseudo-address(PSA).

But the NIC of the preferred embodiment does not get the Memory Handle

10   from the descriptor, it gets the memory handle from the 1st level MHI table 54 which is pointed to by the Memory Handle index 52 which is gotten from the descriptor. Therefore, in the preferred embodiment, the Memory Handle Index 52 is returned by the VI User Agent RegisterMem call, but in VIA VI User Agent terms the Memory Handle is returned by the VI User Agent RegisterMem call. As noted, the Memory Handle Index

15   (MHI) and Memory Handle (MH) are not the same even though the VIA implementation and the preferred embodiment describe the same VI User Agent call (RegisterMem) as returning the value the implementation needs.

Fig. 6 depicts the Memory Handle Table entry format 60 and TPT entry format 70. The TPT Start field 62 is a 4K byte physical address pointer to the beginning

20   of the block of TPT entries allocated as part of the memory registration. This field is 21 bits in width, requiring TPT entries to start in within the lower 8G bytes of memory. The TPT Extent field 64 indicates how many 4K byte pages of TPT entries are valid for this registration. Each page can hold 512 TPT entries. The TPT Extent field is 10 bits in width, allowing up to 1023 pages, each page containing 512 TPT entries. Therefore, the

25   maximum memory a single memory registration can handle is 1023 x 512 x Pegasus. For a Pegasus of 4Kbytes, this is 2G bytes - 2M bytes.

All Memory Handle table entries must be appropriately programmed by the Kernel Agent. Any unused entry must have its TPT Extent field set to all zeros. The second level TPT Entries indicated by the TPT Start, TPT Extent pair must also be

30   programmed by the Kernel Agent. Unused entries must have their valid bits (V) cleared, this includes unused entries beyond those used for the memory registration, but within the same 4K byte page as the last valid entry.

7

Referring back to Fig. 5, the use of the TPT start and Extent fields to implement base/bound checking will now be described. The Pseudo-Address (PSA) is a pointer into the TPT. The magnitude of the PSA generated for a particular Memory Handle is compared to the TPT start field and the sum of the TPT Start and Extent fields

5   (which sum gives the bound of the TPT). If the generated PSA is less than TPT start or greater than the sum of TPT Start and Extent than a TPT Extent Violation is signaled.

The use of the two level-level accessing scheme to rearrange TPT entries to eliminate fragmentation will now be described with reference to Fig. 4, 7, and 8A-8C. As previously described, a new region of memory must be registered utilizing contiguous

10   entries in the TPT. Fig. 4 depicts a TPT having three unused entries, but due to previous assignment of Memory Handles, no two entries are contiguous and a new memory region of two pages cannot be registered.

Fig. 7 depicts the same memory regions and TPT entries of Fig. 1, but which utilize the two-level table look-up scheme described above. Thus, a MHI, $A_{HP1}$ to

15   $A_{HP3}$, has been returned for each memory region registered. Each of these MHIs obtains an MH from the MH table 54, which, when combined with the Virtual Address provided by an application, form a PSA ($A_V$ - $A_H$) that accesses the correct entry in the TPT.

The defragmentation of the TPT to provide contiguous entries will now be described with reference to Figs. 8A-8C. In Step 1, Fig. 8A, is to copy the TPT entry(ies)

20   to be relocated. In this case the entry from entry[6] is copied to entry[3].

Next, in Step 2, Fig. 8B, the Memory Handles for the relocated TPT entry(ies) are reassigned. In this case, the MH that previously formed a PSA pointing to entry[6] is changed to an MH that forms a PSA pointing to entry[3]. Note that the reassigned MH is still located in the same entry in the Memory Handle table so the MHI

25   indexes the correct MH to access the correct translation data. Thus, the entries in the TPT can be moved without having to update the descriptors.

Finally, in Step 3, a new handle, $AH_6$, is added which forms a PSA pointing to entry[5] and the translation data for Mem Region 4 is stored in entry[5] and entry[6] of the TPT. The MHI $A_{HP4}$ is returned to the application registering Mem

30   Region 4.

In the preferred embodiment, the KA copies the Mem Region 3 data to the new TPT entry and the changes the data in the Memory Handle table to access the newly

copied entry. This freed up three consecutive TPT entry locations which can then be used for the newly registered Mem Region 4.

The invention has now been described with reference to the preferred embodiments. Alternatives and substitutions will now be apparent to persons of skill in 5 art. For example, the particular size of the fields described are not critical to the invention. In addition, different algorithms for combining a Memory Handle and virtual address could be utilized. Accordingly, it is not intended to limit the invention except as provided by the appended claims.

9

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1            1.      A memory registration and two-level address translation and

2   protection method implemented by a network interface card (NIC) and kernel agent

3   forming a virtual interface provider, said method comprising the steps of:

4            . providing a memory handle index corresponding to each region of memory

5   registered;

6            maintaining a memory handle table with each entry accessed by a memory

7   handle index and storing a memory handle;

8            maintaining a translation and protection table including a plurality of TPT

9   entries, each TPT entry storing a physical address which is the translation of a virtual

10   address utilized by a virtual interface consumer to access registered memory;

11           providing a first virtual address to be translated, with the first virtual

12   address included in a first registered memory region, and also providing a first memory

13   handle index corresponding to the first registered region;

14           utilizing the first memory handle to access an entry in the memory handle

15   table holding a first memory handle;

16           combining the first memory handle and the first virtual address to form a

17   pseudo-address for accessing a first entry in the TPT holding a first physical address that

18   translates the first virtual address.

1            2.      The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

2            including start and extent fields in each entry of the TPT;

3            after generating the first pseudo-address to access the TPT:

4            comparing the first pseudo-address to the start field and indicating an

5   extent violation if the magnitude of the of the start field is greater than the magnitude of

6   the first pseudo-address;

7            comparing the first pseudo-address to the sum of the start and extent fields

8   and indicating an extent violation of the magnitude of the start and extent fields is less

9   than the magnitude of the first pseudo-address.

1          3.      A method for defragmenting a translation protection table

2    comprising the steps of:

3              providing a translation protection table (TPT), having a plurality of TPT

4    entries, with each TPT entry holding translation data for a virtual address included in a

5    registered memory region;

6              providing a memory handle table (MHT), having a plurality of MHT

7    entries, each MHT entry associated with a registered memory region, with each MHT

8    entry holding a memory handle, with the memory handle used in conjunction with a

9    virtual address to access the TPT entry holding translation data for the virtual address;

10             providing a unique memory handle index for each memory region

11   registered, with each unique memory handle index for accessing the entry of the memory

12   handle table holding the memory handle for accessing TPT entries holding translation

13   data for virtual addresses in the registered memory region;

14             storing translation data for each page of a first registered memory region

15   as the content of contiguous entries of the translation protection table, with the first

16   memory region associated with a first memory handle index;

17             if sufficient unused entries for storing translation data for a second

18   memory region, associated with a second memory handle index, exist in the TPT but the

19   entries are not contiguous:

20                 copying contents of fragmented entries, storing translation data for

21         the first registered memory region, to selected unused entries in the TPT, to form a

22         contiguous region of unused TPT entries for storing translation data for the second

23         memory region;

24                 updating the memory handle, stored in the MHI table entry indexed

25         by the first MHI, to access the selected TPT entries now storing translation data

26         for the first registered memory region

27                 storing translation data for the second memory region in the

28         contiguous region of TPT entries that previously stored translation data for the

29         first memory region;

30                 storing a memory handle in the entry to the MHT entry accessed by the

31   second MHI to access the contiguous region of TPT entries holding translation data for

32   the second memory region.

1          4.      A system for performing address translation that utilizes a memory

2 handle index provided to a user application, with memory handle index associated with a

3 memory region registered by the user application, and with the memory region

4 comprising a plurality of contiguous virtual addresses, said system comprising:

5          a memory handle table, having a plurality of MHT entries, with each MHT

6 entry accessed by a unique memory handle index and holding a memory handle;

7          a translation and protection table (TPT), having a plurality of TPT entries,

8 with each TPT entry accessed by a TPT pointer and holding translation data for a virtual

9 address in a registered memory region;

10          pointer generating logic, responsive to a particular virtual address and a

11 particular memory handle index provided by a user application, for combining a memory

12 handle, accessed from the memory handle table by the particular memory handle index,

13 with the particular virtual address to generate a particular TPT pointer that accesses

14 translation data for the particular virtual address from the TPT.

# VI Architectural Model



Fig-1    PRIOR ART



Fig-2    PRIOR ART

Process using
VI with Tag X                                  NIC

Physical          Virtual                                Physical
Pages             Pages                                  Page        Protection
                                                         Address        Tag

| 2000 | | 9000 |         Memory
                          Handle

                | A000 |                                 | 4000 | Tag X |
| 4000 |        Virtual           Protection             | 2000 | Tag X |
                Address             Index                | 7000 | Tag X |
                | B000 |

| 7000 |

                                                              TPT

Fig. 3                      PRIOR ART

| $A_V$ - Virtual Page Address | TPT Entries: |
| $A_H$ - Memory Handle | ID   Addr |

|  | |——— TPT Bound |
|  | Z │ PAddr |
| Mem Region 4, 2 pages, [$A_V$ - $A_{H4}$]: | ? |
| Mem Region 3, 1 page, [$A_V$ - $A_{H3}$]: | Y │ PAddr │ free |
| Mem Region 2, 1 page, [$A_V$ - $A_{H2}$]: | X │ PAddr |
| Mem Region 1, 3 pages, [$A_V$ - $A_{H1}$]: | X │ PAddr |
|  | X │ PAddr │——— TPT Base |

Fig. 4                      PRIOR ART

**Address Translation Mechanism**

52

Memory Handle Index / Virtual Address ~ 50        Physical Address  PPN

| MHI[19:0] | VPN VA[43:0] | PPN PA[43:X] | PA[(X-1):0] |

VA[43:X]          VA[(X-1):0]

X = log base 2 of page size

MHB,12'h0      MH[31:0]      PSA[43:X]   56

MHI - Memory Handle Table Index
MH - Memory Handle
VA - Virtual Address
PSA - Pseudo Address
PA - Physical Address
X - log base 2 of the Page Size
MHB - Memory Handle Table Base

VPN - Virtual Page Number

PPN - Physical Page Number

Memory Handle Table 4KB aligned 8B entry size

MH

54

Translation/ Protection Table
4KB minimum size
4KB aligned
8B entry size

Valid
PPT Wrt
RDMA R/W        =        Wrt, RDMA Access Violation

Packet and Access Type

Tag        =        Protection Tag Violation

VIs.PTag        TPT Extent Violation

TPT Start        >        TPT Extent Violation

TPT Extent        +        <        Memory Handle Table Size Violation

>

MHTS[19:0]

**Protection Checks**

Fig. 5

---

**Memory Handle Table Entry Format (8 bytes)**  ~ 60

P

| TPT Ext | TPT Start[32:12] | MH[31:0] |

64        62

TPT Start - Beginning Address (4K byte pointer) to start of TPT entries
TPT Ext[9:0] - TPT Extent. The number of consecutive 4K byte pages of TPT entries for this TPT block. A value of 0 indicates an invalid entry.
MH - Memory Handle
P - Page Size Indication. Use large size (VCS.LPS) else use small size (VCS.SPS) Affects VA bits used in PPA calculation (not shown) 1 bit

**TPT Entry Format (8 byte)**   10

V   PPN

| Tag[19:0] | Pad | PA (43:12] |

PPN -

PA - Physical Address page Number
V - Valid. If clear then protection check fails; 1 bit
RDMAWrt - RDMA Write Permission; 1 bit
RDMARead - RDMA Read Permission; 1 bit
PPTWrt - Processor Page Table Write Permission; 1 bit (should always be set in CO2)
Tag - Owner ID protection check field

Fig. 6

A$_V$ - Virtual Page Address   A$_{HP}$ - Memory Handle Pointer
A$_H$ - Memory Handle

Mem Region 4, 2 pages, [A$_{HP4}$]:
Mem Region 3, 1 page, [A$_{HP3}$]:
Mem Region 2, 1 page, [A$_{HP2}$]:
Mem Region 1, 3 pages, [A$_{HP1}$]:

Handle Table

| AH7 |
| AH6 |
| AH4 |
| AH0 |

TPT Entries:        TPT Bound

| Z | PAddr |
| Y | PAddr |  free
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |  TPT Base

Fig. 7

Step 1: Copy TPT Entry(ies) to be relocated

Handle Table

Mem Region 4, 2 pages, [A$_{HP4}$]:
Mem Region 3, 1 page, [A$_{HP3}$]:
Mem Region 2, 1 page, [A$_{HP2}$]:
Mem Region 1, 3 pages, [A$_{HP1}$]:

| AH7 |
| AH6 |
| AH4 |
| AH0 |

TPT Entries:        TPT Bound

| Z | PAddr |
| Y | PAddr |  free
| Z | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |  TPT Base

— Changed or Added by the Kernel Agent

Fig. 8A

Step 2: Reassign Memory Handles for relocated TPT(s)

Handle Table

Mem Region 4, 2 pages, [A$_{HP4}$]:
Mem Region 3, 1 page, [A$_{HP3}$]:
Mem Region 2, 1 page, [A$_{HP2}$]:
Mem Region 1, 3 pages, [A$_{HP1}$]:

| AH7 |
| AH3 |
| AH4 |
| AH0 |

TPT Entries:        TPT Bound

| Y | PAddr |  free
| Z | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |  TPT Base

— Changed or Added by the Kernal Agent

Fig. 8B

Step 3: Add New Handle(s) and TPT Entry(ies)

Handle Table

Mem Region 4, 2 pages, [A$_{HP4}$]:
Mem Region 3, 1 page, [A$_{HP3}$]:
Mem Region 2, 1 page, [A$_{HP2}$]:
Mem Region 1, 3 pages, [A$_{HP1}$]:

| AH6 |
| AH3 |
| AH4 |
| AH0 |

TPT Entries:        TPT Bound

| W | PAddr |
| W | PAddr |
| Y | PAddr |  free
| Z | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |
| X | PAddr |  TPT Base

— Changed or Added by the Kernal Agent
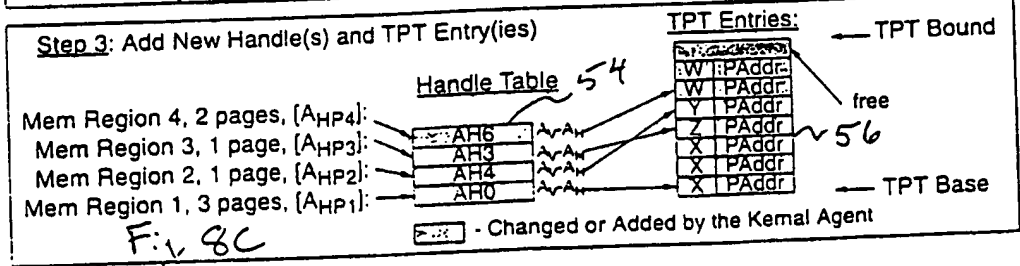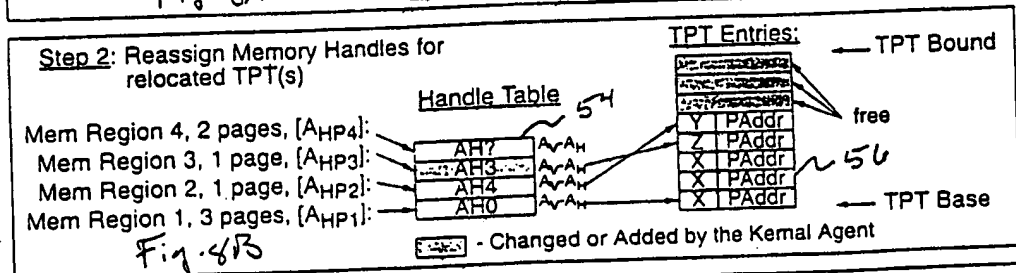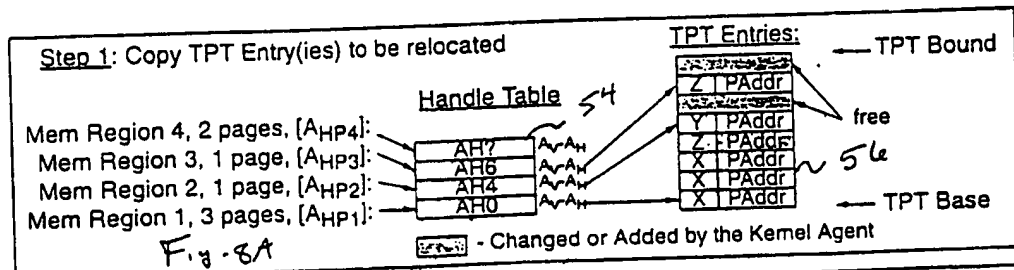
Fig. 8C

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6    G06F12/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6    G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---|---|---|
| X | US 5 555 405 A (GRIESMER MARTIN E  ET AL) 10 September 1996 see column 5, line 41 - column 6, line 19 --- | 3 |
| A | US 5 386 524 A (LARY RICHARD  ET AL) 31 January 1995 see column 9, line 17 - column 10, line 68; figure 5A --- | 1-4 |
| A | EICKEN VON T ET AL:  "U-NET: A USER-LEVEL NETWORK INTERFACE FOR PARALLEL AND DISTRIBUTED COMPUTING" OPERATING SYSTEMS REVIEW (SIGOPS), vol. 29, no. 5, 1 December 1995, pages 40-53, XP000584816 see page 43, left-hand column, line 41 - page 44, left-hand column, line 61 --- -/-- | 1-4 |

| X | Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | | X | Patent family members are listed in annex. |
|---|---|---|---|---|

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the  art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the  international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority  claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use,  exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international  filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the  international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the  application but cited to understand the principle or theory  underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed  invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered  to involve an inventive step when the document is taken  alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed  invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive  step when the document is combined with one or more other  such documents, such combination being obvious to a  person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

| Date of the actual completion of the international search | Date of mailing of the international search report |
|---|---|
| 23 April 1999 | 29/04/1999 |

| Name and mailing address of the ISA | Authorized officer |
|---|---|
| European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Nielsen, O |

**C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|---|---|---|
| P,A | DUNNING D ET AL: "THE VIRTUAL INTERFACE ARCHITECTURE"<br>IEEE MICRO,<br>vol. 18, no. 2, March 1998, pages 66-76,<br>XP000751588<br>see page 71, left-hand column, line 11 - right-hand column, line 46<br>----- | 1-4 |

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| US 5555405 | A | 10-09-1996 | NONE | |
| US 5386524 | A | 31-01-1995 | NONE | |